

Hurricane Season 2005

A supplement to the Gulf Defender

This image of the eye of Hurricane Ivan, one of four hurricanes that struck Florida in 2004, was taken from an altitude of about 230 miles by Astronaut Mike Fincke on the International Space Station.

NASA Photo

Time to prepare for busy hurricane season is now

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Anyone who was in Florida last during the 2004 hurricane season knows all too well Mother Nature's destructive power.

In a short four-week period four major storms rocked the Sunshine State, wreaking havoc from one end to the other and causing billions of dollars in damage. In fact, much of the damage left from last year's storms remains visible today.

Wednesday marks the beginning of the 2005 hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30, and Dr. William Gray, professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University, Colo., predicts an increase in storm activity over previous years.

According to Doctor Gray's forecast, released April 1, the coming season could see 13 named storms of which seven becoming hurricane strength. Of the seven projected hurricanes, Doctor Gray predicted three will become intense hurricanes of Category 3 or higher in magnitude.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released an updated outlook May 16, which follows Doctor Gray's predictions noting a 70 percent chance of an above-normal season.

Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said Doctor Gray's forecast is based

on decades of seasonal trends and urges Floridians to prepare now.

"Many Floridians are still recovering from the effects of the 2004 storms," he said. "The issuance of [Doctor Gray's] forecast should serve as a reminder for Floridians to be prepared for any disaster."

According to Max Mayfield, NOAA National Hurricane Center director, preparation is key to minimizing the affects of these deadly storms.

"Last year's hurricane season pro-

"Last year's hurricane season provided a reminder that planning and preparation for a hurricane do make a difference."

MAX MAYFIELD

National Hurricane Center director

vided a reminder that planning and preparation for a hurricane do make a difference," he said. "Residents in hurricane-vulnerable areas who had a plan, and took individual responsibility for acting on those plans, fared better than those who did not."

Therefore, all Floridians should have a hurricane preparedness plan and a disaster supply kit, which may become their most valuable possession when facing a storm. Officials at the National Hurricane Center recommend creating a hurricane supply kit and a family di-

saster plan outlining how you plan to deal with a hurricane.

The plan should include information such as knowing the types of hurricane-related hazards that could threaten your home or endanger your family; identifying a safe room in your home for each hazard; planned escape routes from your home and places where your family should meet; important emergency contact numbers; an evacuation plan for your family and pets should it become necessary to leave the area.

In addition to knowing the dangers of hurricane conditions and having a plan, everyone should know what to do when a hurricane watch or warning is issued by the local National Weather Service office.

When hurricane conditions are forecast within 36 hours, a hurricane watch is issued and the family disaster plan should spring to life.

If a hurricane warning is issued, sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. At this time, your family should be in the process of completing proactive actions and considering whether to ride the storm out in your selected safe location or evacuate.

Making plans for natural disasters now will not only save valuable time later, but is also a good, smart way to make sure you and your family are safe throughout the hurricane season.

For more information on hurricane preparation, visit www.floridadisaster.org or www.noaa.gov.

Hurricane categories

Note: Hurricane strengths (categories) are based on sustained wind speeds according to the Saffir-Simpson Scale

Tropical storm - 39 to 73 mph

Category 1 - 74 to 95 mph

Category 2 - 96 to 110 mph

Category 3 - 111 to 130 mph

Category 4 - 131 to 155 mph

Category 5 - 155+ mph

Remember: The Dupont Bridge is closed when sustained winds reach 55 mph.

Note - Wind speeds are typically given in knots. To convert to miles per hour, multiply by 1.14.

(Example 100 kts = 100 (1.14) or 115 mph)



Can your family afford to evacuate?

No sales tax for hurricane prep items

MASTER SGT. PAUL KENNEDY
325th Comptroller Squadron

With hurricane season kicking off, Floridians are faced with planning how to protect their homes and families in the event of a storm. One thing many don't consider is what to do once the order is given to "get out of Dodge."

The last thing people should have to worry about during an evacuation is whether they can afford to leave or how they're going to pay for it. As a result, Air Force military families and civilian employees are authorized certain monetary entitlements when ordered to evacuate.

Travel and transportation allowances including mileage and lodging reimbursement, as well as per diem to cover the cost of meals and possibly the shipment of household goods, are authorized during an evacuation to a safe location.

Once people reach a safe location, the lodging reimbursement is equal to the actual total daily lodging cost incurred, not to exceed the maximum lodging rate for the area. People need to bear in mind, however, that lodging is not reimbursed when staying with friends or relatives, or when government-lodging facilities are being provided at no cost.

Additionally, per diem for military members and their families is based on the local rate and the availability of government meals.

Installation commanders also have the authority to ship and/or store household goods using local operations and maintenance funds, including quarters to quarters moves and non-temporary storage of household goods for quarters that become uninhabitable.

When evacuating, DOD personnel are required to use the government sponsored, contractor-issued travel card for all expenses incurred from official travel, which typically includes gas, food, and lodging for the member and authorized dependents.

Following the evacuation, the member must submit a travel voucher for reimbursement. Additionally, members need to include all lodging receipts and receipts for claimed items \$75 and higher. When completing a travel voucher, members are reminded to claim their vehicle mileage, list any dependents along with their relationship and date of birth, and ensure the voucher is signed by the member and his supervisor.

Additionally, members should be aware that an evacuation order must come from the installation commander, and any order given by civil authorities does not constitute eligibility for entitlements as they cannot authorize the obligation of DOD funds for evacuations.

Those who have evacuation entitlement-related questions can call the 325th Comptroller Squadron at (850) 283-8340.

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, and running through midnight, June 12, people can purchase hurricane preparedness-related items tax-free.

The 2005 Florida legislature recently enacted, and the governor approved, a tax-free period directing that no sales tax be collected on specific items related to hurricane preparedness.

Under the tax-free rule, Florida residents can now stock up on hurricane-related essentials such as portable radios, batteries, flashlights and candles, tarps and food storage containers. Not covered, however, are building materials, such as plywood.

Specified items must fall into a certain price range to be tax-free. If the sales price of a qualifying item exceeds the allowable threshold amount, the tax exemption will not apply.



- The following list outlines items that fall under the tax-free rule and their acceptable price range.
- Qualifying items selling for \$20 or less:**

 - Any portable self-powered light source
 - Battery-powered flashlights
 - Battery-powered lanterns
 - Gas-powered lanterns
 - Candles
- Qualifying items selling for \$25 or less:**

 - Any gas or diesel fuel container
- Qualifying items selling for \$30 or less:**

 - Batteries, including rechargeable, sizes AA, C, D, and 6- and 9-volt (excluding car and boat batteries) only.
 - Non-electric food storage coolers
 - Non-electric food storage ice chests
 - First aid kits
- Qualifying items selling for \$50 or less:**

 - Self or battery-powered radios, including two-way and weather band.
 - Tarps
 - Flexible waterproof sheeting
 - Ground anchor systems
 - Tie-down kits
- Qualifying item selling for \$750 or less:**

 - Portable generators that will be used to provide light or communications, or to preserve perishable food in the event of a power outage due to a hurricane.

(Note: Battery or gas-powered light sources and qualifying portable self-powered radios qualify for the exemption even though they may have electrical cords).

Tyndall personnel must have form on file during evacuation

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Since natural disasters that drive evacuations are a proven reality to the Team Tyndall community, it's mandatory for accountability purposes that all active-duty military and civilian employees complete a Tyndall AFB Form 254, Emergency Notification Card.

"The form is for accountability during an evacuation as a result of a hurricane or other natural disaster," said 2nd Lt. Melissa Greene, 325th Mission Support Squadron section commander. "We have to know where people are so we can tell them when to come back after the storm or provide other important information."

Basically, the form's primary function is to provide leadership with personnel location and emergency contact information, and to assist family members

with locating members during emergencies.

Information required on the form includes the names of the military member and their family, home address and phone number, and for children, school or daycare address and phone number.

The lieutenant also said it's a good idea to include cell phone numbers on the form as well.

Additionally, members need to include the location they will evacuate to, as well as an alternate location and the evacuation zone in which they reside.

Once completed, members need to provide copies of the form to their supervisor and squadron orderly room.

"It only takes five minutes to fill out, but it is so useful when we have to try to get in touch with someone following an evacuation," Lieutenant Greene said.

Do you know what Tyndall's HURCONs mean?

HURCON 5 - Indicates the threat of a hurricane exists. This level exists from June 1 - Nov. 30, and may be upgraded as storms form and/or threaten Tyndall.

HURCON 4 - Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 72 hours.

HURCON 3 - Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 48 hours.

HURCON 2 - Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 24 hours.

HURCON 1 - Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 12 hours.

HURCON 1E - Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph are occurring, and other dangerous condition associated with the storm are present. All outside activity is strictly prohibited.

HURCON 1R - Indicates life-threatening hazards due to the storm have passed, but damage may persist and only emergency responders and damage assessment personnel are released to move about.

Hurricane 101:

Understanding some commonly-used terms

HWT (Hurricane Watch Team) -This team is responsible for providing information to the installation commander and the Crisis Action Team on the status of the storm; legal and financial considerations; personnel issues for military, civilian and contract personnel; and inputs regarding aircraft evacuation issues.

ROE (Ride Out Element) - A small cadre of personnel that will remain on base in a shelter during a hurricane to provide minimal command, security and immediate damage assessment/control.

BRE (Base Recovery Element) -This element provides a more detailed damage assessment, an emergency landing area, and ensures safe return for mission essential personnel.

ADVON BRE (Advance Base Recovery Element) - A team, led by the mission support squadron, that dispatches ahead of the Base Recovery Element to secure lodging in the event of an evacuation.

CAT (Crisis Action Team) - A cadre of senior leadership, which meets to discuss all options affecting personnel during a contingency.

CAT-D (Crisis Action Team Directive) - A written directive describing actions planned for by the CAT and approved by the installation commander.

EOC (Emergency Operations Center) - A county-owned and run command and control facility from which hurricane or other contingency operations are conducted.

New HURCONs offer added protection

1st Lt. Albert Bosco
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Fighter Wing’s leadership recently added two new hurricane condition levels to Tyndall AFB’s current five-tier system in order to provide added protection to base personnel.

The addition of HURCONs 1E and 1R come just in time for the beginning of the 2005 hurricane season, which begins Wednesday and runs through Nov. 30.

The suffixes, meaning emergency and recovery, are meant to keep people in their homes or shelters during life-threatening weather conditions.

“Last year there were reports of individuals outside taking pictures during Hurricane Ivan,” said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander. “That presents an extremely dangerous situation as these people could have been seriously injured by debris being blown around. As a result, we’ve developed these hurricane conditions to prevent these types of activities from occurring.”

During HURCON 1E, only emergency personnel, such as fire and security forces, are permitted to be outside their homes or shelters, since the 1E indicates life-threatening conditions exist with sus-

tained winds in excess of 58 mph.

HURCON 1R means the storm has passed, but there are still dangerous conditions present. During 1R, only base recovery personnel and those individuals identified as mission critical for getting Tyndall operational are authorized to be outside their homes.

According to Capt. Alexander Archibald, acting 325th Security Forces commander, those who violate the 1E or 1R directives could face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“If the installation commander orders people to remain indoors due to storm conditions, they are expected to do just that,” Captain

Archibald said. “If security forces is driving around and sees someone outside, they’ll apprehend the individual and charge him with an Article 92 violation, or Failure to Obey.”

But, according to General Egginton, the key issue is safety.

“Being told to remain indoors by the installation commander is a lawful order, but the biggest thing folks need to realize is this is for their protection,” the general said. “Until we can be assured the area is safe, it’s just best if people stay indoors.”

Proper hurricane preparation begins long before the first glimpse of a storm on a weatherman’s radar screen.

Creating a checklist to be used prior to a hurricane’s arrival can ensure both you and your family are safe and secure when a storm makes landfall.

The list provided can be clipped and placed in a hurricane kit.

Do the following before an evacuation order is issued:

- Check hurricane kit and replace missing items. Ensure items such as food, water and batteries are rotated in and out of the kit to maintain freshness.
- Listen for official weather reports and announcements on radio and televisions. Announcements will also be posted on the base cable Channel 12.
- Note the address of nearest emergency shelter.
- Low-lying areas or mobile homes should be evacuated.
- If pregnant or ill, call a doctor for advice.
- Be prepared to turn off gas, water and electricity.
- Keep vehicles fueled and prepared to evacuate.
- Moor boats securely. Use long lines and allow for rising water.
- Secure objects that could

become deadly hazards, such as doors, shutters, gates, outdoor furniture, garden tools, sprinklers, hoses, children’s toys, trash cans and loose branches.

If a hurricane evacuation is advised, do the following:

- Notify unit of evacuation destination.
- Notify destination of the evacuation and ensure there is no change in availability. Notify out-of-area family/friends of evacuation.
- Leave the area as soon as possible.
- Follow official instructions.
- Disconnect all major appliances except for the refrigerator and freezer. Turn their controls to the coldest setting and keep the door closed.
- Provide food and water for pets, or board them in a kennel. Pets cannot be taken to an evacuation shelter or billeting.
- Shut off the water and gas at the main valve.
- If prescription medicine is needed, have two weeks worth on hand at all times.
- Ensure your home is properly secured.
- Drive safely, allow time for your trip and avoid areas where traffic congestion is likely to occur.

Hurricane watch vs. warning?

Hurricane watch

A hurricane watch means hurricane conditions could arrive within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family’s disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated, such as securing objects around your home.

Hurricane warning

A hurricane warning means sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once a warning is issued, your family should complete proactive actions and decide the safest location to be during the storm.

Phone numbers and Web sites of interest

Bay County Emergency Operations Center	(850) 784-4000
Tyndall Civil Engineer Readiness Flight	(850) 283-2010
Straight Talk	(877) 529-5540
Air Force Personnel Center	(800) 453-9941
National Weather Service (www.nws.noaa.gov)	
National Hurricane center (www.nhc.noaa.gov)	
Florida Division of Emergency Management (www.floridadisaster.org)	
To report downed power lines, fires or medical emergencies after the storm, call 911	

A hurricane kit is a valuable tool during a severe storm. Ensure you have the proper materials on-hand. The following checklist can help.

- ☐ Foods: Nonperishable and canned foods that do not require cooking. Also, special dietary foods as required.
- ☐ Drinking water: At least two quarts per person per day contained in nonbreakable containers.
- ☐ Important personal property: Identification, cash, valuable papers, insurance policies and photos. Store these items in a waterproof container.
- ☐ Battery operated all weather radio with extra batteries. A NOAA-capable radio is recommended.
- ☐ Personal hygiene items: Soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, aspirin, antacid, towels and washcloths, etc.
- ☐ Utensils: Manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, etc.
- ☐ Personal aids: Eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetic devices, etc.
- ☐ Leisure items: Books, games, cards, toys, etc.
- ☐ Infant care items, such as disposable diapers, wipes, formula, baby food.
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher.
- ☐ First aid kit: Prescription medications (two-week supply), bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, sterile pads, band aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, non-prescription medicine, sun screen, insect repellent, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, etc.
- ☐ Bedding: Sleeping bags, blankets and sheets, pillows, etc. These items should be stored in a waterproof container.
- ☐ Clothing: At least one change of clothing including an extra pair of rugged shoes.
- ☐ Tools: Screwdrivers (slotted and Phillips), hammer, nails, utility knife, axe, scissors, hand-saw, pliers, rope, plastic tarp, drop cloths, tape, etc.
- ☐ Camping accessories: Lantern, portable stove, matches, portable cooler, etc.
- ☐ Wood to secure broken windows, etc.



Stay informed with Straight Talk

The Straight Talk contingency information line is a vital tool for keeping military and civilian personnel informed during a hurricane or other disaster.

By calling (877) 529-5540, anyone can get updated information regarding Tyndall's current status, duty reporting information and directives or instructions from wing leadership.

Straight Talk has 32 available phone lines to accommodate many callers at once, and personnel should check for updates often.

This number should not be confused with other toll-free numbers used during hurricane evacuations, which are dedicated solely to informing Tyndall employees when to return to work following an evacuation or allowing personnel to pro-

vide updates to wing leadership on their evacuation location.

For instance, people can reach Tyndall AFB for base status and return to duty information by calling (800) 896-8806.

In the event of an evacuation, employees should contact the Air Force Personnel Center by calling (800) 453-9941 to report their location during the evacuation and to receive further instructions.

In the event members evacuate to a location other than indicated on their TAFB Form 254, they should contact AFPC and provide updated location and contact information.

(Compiled by the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)



Know the FAQs

Some answers to evacuation-related questions

Q - I am military, but I live off base. If the installation commander orders military people to evacuate, do I have to leave?

A - Yes. An evacuation order given by the installation commander is a lawful order and must be followed. The decision to evacuate will be coordinated with associate unit commanders to ensure the mission needs of all units are met. Military members who violate orders are subject to discipline under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Q - I am a civilian and my spouse is military and we live in base housing. Can the installation commander order me to evacuate?

A - Yes. All military facilities on the installation, including base housing areas, fall under the authority of the installation commander. Additionally, the installation commander is responsible for maintaining the safety and security of personnel assigned to Tyndall AFB and their families.

Q - Does an evacuation order affect civilian personnel residing outside the installation?

A - Civilian personnel residing off base are not required to evacuate when the installation evacuates; however, if the installation commander authorizes civilian personnel to evacuate they are entitled to limited reimbursement for expenses incurred should they evacuate.

Q - If Bay County orders an evacuation but the installation commander doesn't do I have to leave?

A - Base authorities work closely with community authorities, so conflicting evacuation orders are unlikely. However, military members are ultimately required to follow the orders issued through their chain of command.

Q - Can my supervisor authorize me to evacuate?

A - Supervisors need to follow the orders given by the chain of command as the evacuation order will generally indicate by whose authority and when personnel are authorized to depart.

Q - If I evacuate, can I use my government travel card to pay for expenses?

A - If the installation commander orders an evacuation, members who reside in an evacuation zone are authorized to use their government travel card to pay for evacuation-related expenses only.

Q - Where do I go if I am told to evacuate?

A - Personnel ordered to evacuate are authorized to seek shelter, typically within a 500 mile radius of the installation. Your planned evacuation locations must be documented on a TAFB Form 254 and be maintained by your orderly room.

Q - Can I evacuate even if I'm not in an evacuation zone?

A - It depends upon the evacuation order. Certain personnel may be deemed mission essential or be required to stay behind if they are on the installation's ride-out or base recovery teams.

Q - Do I have to have any paperwork on file with my orderly room in case of evacuation?

A - Yes. All personnel are required to submit a TAFB Form 254 identifying their proposed evacuation location.

Q - What should I do with my pets?

A - Pets are not allowed in county storm shelters, military lodging facilities and most motels. Therefore, personnel are encouraged to develop a pet care plan before a storm appears. Suitable places include kennels or pet shelters, or a pet-friendly hotel. Some online resources include www.letsgetpets.com and pets-allowed-hotels.com.

Q - What should I do after the storm passes?

A - Contact your chain of command or call Straight Talk at (877) 529-5540 for instructions.

Q - How will I know when I have to return to work?

A - All personnel should monitor local radio and television news reports as recovery information will be provided to broadcast media outlets. Additionally, the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office maintains the Straight Talk contingency information line, which provides updated information regarding Tyndall issues. Straight Talk is available by calling toll-free (877) 529-5540.